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Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, October 5, 2012

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Agronomy and Horticulture Newsletter

October 5, 2012

Baenziger to present lecture Nov. 1

Professor and Nebraska Wheat Growers Presidential Chair, Steve Baenziger, will be presenting a free public lecture, “The Joy of Applied Science While Feeding the World,” on Nov. 1. The event will be held at 3:30 p.m. at the Nebraska Union Auditorium on city campus. A reception will follow.

The lecture is part of The Nebraska Lectures Chancellor’s Distinguished Lecture Series sponsored by the UNL Research Council, Office of the Chancellor, and the Office of Research & Economic Development. The lecture will be webcast live at research.unl.edu and an archived video will be available approximately one week after the event.



Steve Baenziger

Students compete in Quick Pitch Event

Luqi Li, a senior undergraduate student in Turfgrass and Landscape Management, received high honors in the first Quick Pitch Competition hosted by the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) on Monday, Sept. 24 at the Nebraska East Union.

Students had the opportunity to showcase their entrepreneurial, communication, and presentation skills through a short “quick pitch” proposal for a new business venture, which they delivered to a panel of entrepreneurially-minded experts from Nebraska. The Dow Chemical Company was one of the sponsors and their staff was impressed with the students’ business ideas for opportunities in rural communities.

Li was recognized for his business idea of starting a lawn care company in Beijing, China and was awarded an iPad2. There were three undergraduates out of a total of 20 contestants who received top honors. Professors Zac Reicher and Dave Lambe praised Li for being a great student and an asset to the Agronomy and Horticulture Department. Congratulations Luqi!

Mark Your Calendars

- Oct. 5:** Department of Agronomy & Horticulture Seminar–Buffalo Grass Performs Great in the Drought, But Still Suffering, Sajeewa Amarasada, 3:30 p.m., Refreshments at 3 p.m., 150 Keim.
- Oct. 8:** Center for Grassland Studies Seminar–Overview of the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition, Ron Bolze, Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition Coordinator, 3–4 p.m., NEU.
- Oct. 15–16:** UNL Fall Break. No classes, but offices are open.
- Oct. 17:** Olsen Seminar in Great Plains Study, Sustainable Farming and Food Systems in the Great Plains, Chuck Francis, 3:30 p.m., Great Plains Art Museum.
- Oct. 21–25:** ASA, CSSA, SSSA Annual Meetings, Cincinnati.
- Nov. 7:** SAC Meeting, 10:30 a.m., 279M PLSH.
- Nov. 22–25:** Thanksgiving Break.
- Dec. 1:** Pi Alpha Xi (the National Honor Society for Horticulture) Wreath-making Workshop, 9 a.m., 274 & 275 PLSH, contact Dave Lambe or Ellen Paparozzi for more information.
- Dec. 10:** Agronomy & Horticulture holiday luncheon, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., NEU.

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Steve Rodie inducted as a Fellow

Professor Steve Rodie was inducted into the ASLA Council of Fellows at the Sept. 30 Fellows Investiture Dinner and Ceremony at the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Annual Meeting in Phoenix. Members of the Council of Fellows are recognized for their extraordinary work, leadership, knowledge, and service to the profession. Steve joins 33 new inductees. Fellows make up about 4 percent of ASLA membership. Congratulations Steve!

Fall Campus Safety Walk is Oct. 23

Based on the success of last year's Campus Safety Walk, the UNL Police Department and UNL Parking Department have committed to conducting a safety walk on a regular basis. The whole UNL community is invited to the fall 2012 Campus Safety Walk on Oct. 23. Participants will have the opportunity to review and evaluate lighting, landscaping, parking, construction areas and any other issues that may relate to the nighttime environment on campus.

The UNL Police Department and UNL Parking Department would like a representative from each department to participate in the walk. If anyone has specific concerns, please send a list to Sgt. Jeff Hohlen, University of Nebraska Police, at jhohlen2@unl.edu by Oct. 17, so these locations can be GIS located and placed on a map to be distributed that night.

A bus will provide transportation at 9 p.m. and those attending will be able to park in the 17th & R Parking Garage. Bus boarding will take place at the main level police parking breezeway. This walk will last approximately two hours.

RSVP by Oct. 17 to jhohlen2@unl.edu to assure adequate seating.

Staff transition for visiting scholar requests

Over the course of the past year and a half, 20 visiting research scholars have been or are currently hosted by department faculty. Potentially, nine more scholars are anticipating a visit to our department within the next six months. A considerable amount of paperwork and communications is involved with obtaining needed information to facilitate the visit and this often takes time to process. Thus, it is a great help to know, as far in advance as possible, of awaiting visiting research scholars. Previously, Charlene Wendt worked closely with faculty in processing these requests. However, this process has now been assigned to Kathy Schindler as the main point of contact for such requests, current and future. You may reach Kathy for any questions about the process at 472-1508, or by email at kschindler1@unl.edu. Charlene will continue to assist Kathy as needed.

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Dec. 14–15: UNL
Graduation.

Dec. 17: IANR Staff Holiday
Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.–
1:30 p.m., NEU.

Dec. 24, 2012–Jan. 2, 2013:
UNL Holiday closedown.

Jan. 8–10, 2013: Nebraska
Turf Conference, LaVista
Conference Center.

Feb. 18–19, 2013: Nebraska
Great Plains Conference,
Cornhusker Hotel,
Lincoln.

Feb. 28–March 2, 2013:
Nebraska Winery and
Grape Growers Forum
and Trade Show, Holiday
Inn, Kearney.

Honors Program proposals due

The purpose of the Undergraduate Honors Student Research Program is to allow outstanding junior and senior Honors Program students to conduct research under the direction of an Agricultural Research Division faculty mentor. Funding is available to participants proposing to work with a faculty member who has an ARD appointment or ARD-associated adjunct appointment. For successful applicants, ARD will provide up to \$2,500 per student. Proposals must be authored by the student with guidance from the proposed project mentor. Proposals for this spring must be sent to ardgrants@unl.edu and are due by 5 p.m., Nov. 30, 2012. Guidelines for the program are at ard.unl.edu/awards#Honors.

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News for and about Graduate Students

AHGSA to host fall cookout



The Agronomy and Horticulture Graduate Student Association (AHGSA) will be hosting an annual fall cookout on Friday, Oct. 5, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. in 150 Keim Hall. They will be serving brats, two sides, dessert, and a drink for \$5.

Participation supports AHGSA activities throughout the year.

Like last year, they will have a baking contest for the desserts. All who wish to contribute a dessert item are eligible for the contest and prizes. AHGSA members will judge the entries prior to the cookout in the following categories: Best Bar-type Dessert, Best Cake/Pie Dessert, and Best Cookie. The Dessert Grand Champion will be chosen by popular vote during the cookout.

Please drop off your baked goods in 202N Keim from 8–10 a.m. Cards will be available to label the item. If you wish to enter the Bake-off, please enter your name in the numbered sign-in sheet and write your number and name of the baked good on the provided Bake-off label. We will be judging at 10:30 a.m. Remember, more baked goods are always welcome! Please contact Katherine Frels at katherine.frels@gmail.com with any questions.

Transportation News from T.J. McAndrew

Two new vehicles available to department

The Department of Agronomy and Horticulture has leased two new vehicles that faculty, staff and graduate students may use on a short-term basis. The vehicles are a white Ford Fusion (#86) and a white Chevy Malibu (#106). These replace both Ford Taurus' (#36 & #49).

Drivers must be authorized to drive a university vehicle. To reserve a car or to find out how to get authorized to drive a university car, contact T.J. McAndrew at tmcandrew2@unl.edu or Sloane Cornelius at scornelius2@unl.edu. There is no charge to drive a car below 25 miles. After 25 miles, the charge is \$.21 a mile and may be billed to a cost object.



Squirrel rescue

John Dillingham and Ben Lennander from the HAPPI Business Center, lent a hand last week capturing a squirrel that found itself trapped in the Keim courtyard. Nicknamed Chester Pistachio, the squirrel was safely released in the Maxwell Arboretum. John and Ben are doing fine too!

Travel Help Session scheduled for Oct. 11

The HAPPI Business Center and the Agronomy and Horticulture Office Professionals are pleased to present a Travel Help Session for faculty, staff and students who travel. This event will be held Thursday, Oct. 11, at 3 p.m. in 150 Keim.

Staff at this presentation will explain the two main travel forms: the pre-trip Travel Authorization (T.A.) and the reimbursement expense voucher that is completed after the employee travels. This Travel Help Session will be geared toward best practices to have a successful trip, reducing travel problems that employees have experienced, and avoiding common mistakes on the forms. After the presentation, there will be time for questions and answers. Popcorn will be available.

Please note—all departments in Plant Sciences Hall, Keim, Kiesselbach, Biochemistry, Stewart Seed Lab, INTSORMIL, and the greenhouses are invited to attend. To attend this Travel Help Session, RSVP to Sloane Cornelius at scornelius2@unl.edu or call 472-5138.



Campus Security and Fire Safety Report Available

The annual security report for the University of Nebraska–Lincoln is now available. This report is required by federal law and contains policy statements and crime statistics for the university. The policy statements address the university's policies, procedures and programs concerning safety and security—for example, policies for responding to emergency situations and sexual offenses. Three years' worth of statistics is included for certain types of crimes that were reported to have occurred on or near campus. Fire statistics are also included. This report is available online at police.unl.edu/annualreport.

Additional safety and security information is available at police.unl.edu. You may also request a paper copy from the University Police Department.

UNOPA seeking nominations

The Agronomy and Horticulture Department's Staff Advisory Committee (SAC) is encouraging our employees to nominate co-workers and bosses for various awards around the university and through professional organizations. One association that is presently seeking award nominations is the University of Nebraska Office Professionals Association (UNOPA). UNOPA is seeking candidates for the following annual awards:

2012 Floyd S. Oldt Boss of the Year – This award honors excellence in personnel management. It recognizes employees who show outstanding skills in employee supervision and interpersonal relations.

Floyd S. Oldt Silver Pen – This award honors two office/service employees who have demonstrated superior performance while at UNL and who have made contributions to the university community.

Floyd S. Oldt Outstanding Staff – This award was created to recognize an outstanding UNL office/service employee who demonstrates distinguished service and contributions to the university community.

The nomination deadline is Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2012. More information about the award criteria and the nomination forms are at the UNOPA website at unopa.unl.edu/about/annualawards. If you have any questions, please contact UNOPA members Susan Thomas at 472-8617 or sthas1@unl.edu and Kathy Schindler at 472-1508 or kschindler1@unl.edu, or UNOPA Awards Committee Director Diane Carson at 472-8209 or dcarson2@unl.edu.

NSF to conduct workshop

In conjunction with the UNL Research Fair, representatives from the National Science Foundation (NSF) will conduct a workshop on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012 in the Nebraska Union. There is no fee for UNL employees to participate; however, participants must register by Nov. 1. There is an expectation of about 300 people from UNL and surrounding states to participate; thus, registration is essential.

More information and a link to the registration site are available at www.nsf.gov/events/event_sum.m.jsp?cntn_id=125337&org=NSF or www.researchfair.unl.edu/schedule/.

Newsletter

Please contact Fran Benne, fbenne2@unl.edu, or Kathy Schindler, kschindler1@unl.edu to submit announcements, pictures, and articles for the newsletter. The newsletter is distributed twice a month and features news for the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture.

